

REMARKS

Claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 1, 8, 9, 11 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-21 remain pending in the instant application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claim 14 has not been rejected. Thus, Applicants presume that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 18, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tochio (U.S. Patent No. 6,563,613 B1).

Claim 1, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Masucci et al. (U.S. Patent 6,592,272 B1).

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masucci as applied to claim 1, in view of Wagener et al. (U.S. Patent 6,631,222 B1).

Claims 7, 8-12, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masucci as applied to claim 1, in view of Waarts et al. (U.S. Patent 6,212,310 B1).

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masucci as applied to claim 1, in view of Lahat et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,074 B1).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 7. In particular, contrary to the Examiner's position, Waarts fails to suggest or disclose "the central terminal optical transmitter transmitting the shared downstream signal in a shared optical channel at wavelength λ_0 and wherein the plural user terminals include a first group of user terminals each having an optical transmitter that includes a coarse WDM laser and a second group of user terminals each having an optical transmitter that includes a dense WDM laser."

Waarts discloses using "a first and second sets or groups of fiber laser sources" that are doped with different active dopants having overlapping or adjacent gain spectra ..." (Col 5,

lines 20-27). Although Waarts teaches a first and second group of lasers, Waarts does not teach, suggest, or disclose a first group of user terminals each having an "optical transmitter" that includes "a coarse WDM laser" and a second group of user terminals each having an optical transmitter that includes "a dense WDM laser". The limitation of "course" and "dense" lasers is a significant distinction and is not obvious to one skilled in the art in the passive optical networks. Thus, the limitation in claim 7 is believe to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 7 has been cancelled. Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 7. Thus, claims 1 and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to claims 1 and 18 be withdrawn.

Remaining claims 2-6, 7-17, and 19-21, as originally filed and/or as amended, all depend from claim 1 or 18, respectively. As such, the rejections to claims 2-6, 7-17, and 19-21 are obviated and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Esteban A. Rockett
Registration No.: 55,578

Attorney for Applicants